

FRAUD ALERT!

Protect Your Social Security Number

The Social Security Number (SSN) is the most frequently used record-keeping number in America. It is used to report earnings for future Social Security benefits; by financial institutions and credit bureaus for accounting and data systems; and by government agencies to record Medicare, Medicaid and unemployment benefits. Unfortunately, ID thieves to get credit and jobs also use SSNs fraudulently. To protect yourself:

- Don't carry anything in your wallet with you SSN, including you Social Security card, and make sure it is not on your driver's license.
- Don't carry your Medicare or military ID card unless you are going to a new doctor, or going on base.
- Question why someone needs your number by asking: 1) Why do you need my number; 2) How will my number be used; 3) What happens if I refuse; 4) What law requires me to give you my number?
- Never give out your SSN to someone contacting you by telephone, e-mail or at your door. They may claim to represent Medicare, your bank or a credit bureau, and then trick you into giving out your SSN.
- Do not buy a SSN from someone as a way to legalize your immigrant status - it is illegal. If you get a job or buy a house with an illegal SSN, you may lose your job and your house, as well as face prosecution.

MACOMB COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE FRAUD HOTLINE

(866) 498-8503

JOHN J. LATELLA

CHIEF OF SENIOR CRIMES

(586) 469-7276